

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
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R 230625Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8928
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JAKARTA 6703

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, ID
SUBJECT: 17 ARRESTED IN NEW FIREBOMBING PLOT/STUDENT DETAINEES

REF: (A) JAKARTA 6262 (DTG 150750Z MAY 78), (B) JAKARTA 5780
(DTG 040520Z MAY 78), (C) JAKARTA 4515 (DTG 070745Z APR 78),
(D) JAKARTA 3683 (DTG 210940Z MAY 78)

1. GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES HAVE ARRESTED 17 SUSPECTS --
SIX ON MAY 13 AND THE REST A WEEK LATER -- IN CONNECTION
WITH ALLEGED PLOT TO FIREBOMB ENTERTAINMENT AND GAMBLING
CENTERS AT THE ANCOL RECREATION PARK IN NORTH JAKARTA AND
CHURCHES IN NEARBY NEIGHBORHOODS. THE FIRST GROUP OF SIX
WERE ARRESTED IN THE ACT OF CARRYING MOLOTOV COCKTAILS AND
OTHER EXPLOSIVE MATERIAL INTO ANCOL. THE OTHER 11 WERE
PICKED UP AS A RESULT OF THE INTERROGATION OF THE ORIGINAL
SUSPECTS. THE JAKARTA SECURITY COMMAND (LAKSUS), IN CHARGE
OF THE INVESTIGATION, HAS CLAIMED A PROBABLE CONNECTION
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BETWEEN THESE ARRESTS AND THE MARCH 20 FIREBOMBING PLOT IN JAKARTA,
ALLEGEDLY MASTERMINDED BY MEMBERS OF THE MUSLIM
YOUTH GROUP GPI (REFERENCE D). THOSE ARRESTED
HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED SO FAR ONLY BY INITIALS AND IN
SOME CASES BY AGE (ALL IN THEIR LATE TEENS AND EARLY
20'S). NO PROMINENT INDONESIANS ARE KNOWN TO BE INVOLVED.

2. ON THE SEPARATE MATTER OF STUDENTS DETAINED FOR ALLEGED DISSIDENT ACTS IN THE MONTHS BEFORE THE RECENT MPR SESSION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED SOMEWHAT CONFLICTING FIGURES ON THE NUMBER OF CASES NOW BEING PREPARED FOR TRIAL. AS NOTED IN REFERENCE B, KOPKAMTIB COMMANDER ADM. SUDOMO HAS STATED THAT "NO MORE THAN 40" OF THE STUDENT DETAINEES WOULD BE TRIED. ATTORNEY GENERAL ALI SAID ANNOUNCED IN MID-MAY THAT HIS OFFICE SO FAR HAD RECEIVED THE CASES OF 49 STUDENTS FROM JAVA, NORTH SUMATRA AND SOUTH SULAWESI TO BE PREPARED FOR TRIAL, INCLUDING A TOTAL OF 19 FROM WEST JAVA AND JAKARTA. THE LAKSUS OF WEST JAVA AND THE LAKSUS OF JAKARTA, HOWEVER, IN SEPARATE ANNOUNCEMENTS SOME DAYS EARLIER, REPORTED THEY HAD RESPECTIVELY SENT 45 AND TEN (I.E., A TOTAL OF 55) CASES TO THE COURTS FOR TRIAL PREPARATION.

3. COMMENT: AS OFTEN HAPPENS, THE GOVERNMENT FIGURES ARE MORE CONFUSING THAN ENLIGHTENING AND IT WILL PROBABLY BE SOME TIME BEFORE A RELIABLE FIGURE OF STUDENTS TO BE TRIED CAN BE OBTAINED. SOME OF THE CASES IN THE HANDS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE COURTS COULD STILL BE DROPPED, AND SUDOMO'S PREDICTION OF 50 OR FEWER STUDENTS TRIED MAY TURN OUT TO BE TRUE.
MASTERS

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